The Camp of God Must Be Clean

Both in the past and today, the camp of God/the Body of Christ must be clean, because there the Lord has His dwelling. (The prince of this world (Satan) cometh, and hath nothing in me. John 14:30; For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee. Deuteronomy 23:14; Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell. Numbers 5:3)

God, who is the architect and builder of the Body/Church, has set laws of operation in the body in such a way as to keep it undefiled. Christ cares lovingly for this body, because it is His Body! (For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. Ephesians 5:29, 30)

In case a member of the Body of Christ becomes sick/defiled through negligence and falling into temptation, the Lord Jesus cares/participates together with the members of His Body for the healing of the sick member.

If the sick member refuses to be cared for, eventually it must be removed. One of the reasons for removal is that the sick one will contaminate/influence and will encourage sin through his life and to the one to whom he is closely connected. (Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. Hebrews 12:15; For they will turn away thy son from following me… Deuteronomy 7:4) The Lord Jesus does not allow sin to dwell in His Body, therefore He commands the members of His Body to watch so that there may be no one profane/worldly among them. The sin/infection of one member infects the members to which it is closely connected. (Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person. Hebrews 12:16; Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7)

Therefore, we are commanded that when we observe a sin, we must go to our brother and lift him up with the spirit of meekness for his correction, and if he does not listen, he must be brought before the Church. (Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. And if he shall neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Matthew 18:15, 17)

Many may say: how can the one who sits next to us on the same bench at the worship program contaminate us, when he has almost no connection with us, when we do not

know what he does?

If this happens, not to be bound to one another, then it is clear that we are in a scattered flock, in which Satan has done his work.

There can be no talk of obedience, reproof, correction..., where there can be no talk of the Body of Christ which was designed to function closely connected.

Every soul is responsible before God for the penetration and toleration of evil in the Body of Christ. If each member is closely connected to another member, then it is easy to understand that when one becomes sick, it will affect the other with which it is connected.

If a member becomes sick with the disease of slander/backbiting and is not reproved and disciplined/corrected, it will contaminate those to whom it is closely connected. (Be not deceived: "Evil communications corrupt good manners". 1 Corinthians 15:33)

If through lack of vigilance, the members of the body of Christ come to tolerate sin, ultimately, the Church becomes separated from Christ. (I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Revelation 3:15, 16; And I will kill her children with death. Revelation 2:23)

When the commandment in Matthew 18:15 is ignored, sin multiplies, the body becomes sick and, if no measures are taken for healing, it will ultimately die. (Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Ecclesiastes 8:11)

The Church in Thyatira

At the time this Church was examined, it was in a situation where sin had entered the assembly and was tolerated. The Church allowed a "woman who calls herself a prophetess" to teach heresies and to deceive the servants of the Lord. (But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. 2 Peter 2:1)

It can be seen the Lord's care for the members of His body; first for Jezebel whom was given time to repent. (And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Revelation 2:21)

Even though the Church was praised for many things, the Lord reproves it for this sin of negligence, of tolerating sin. (I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding

I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants. Revelation 2:19, 20)

The Church was guilty of disregarding the Lord's teaching, which tells us that a woman should not teach others, and of the teaching that tells us to watch and not to have fellowship with anyone who even calls himself a brother... (Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. Hebrews 12:15,16; Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 1 Timothy 2:12)

This leaven of sin that was tolerated in the Church, was to leaven the whole lump, that is, the death of the flock. (Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 1 Corinthians 5:6; And I will kill her children with death. Revelation 2:23)

If the Church, in its majority, comes to allow sin, what should the few, who still want to remain faithful to the Lord, do? Can they remain in this Church, and live according to the law of the Body of Christ, where every joint supplies its share? Does the Lord teach them to remain together with those who live in sin?

If we are attentive to the written Word and do not overlook it, it gives us answers to these questions. When sin is tolerated, the Lord Jesus has commands for the members who want to remain obedient to Him.

Thus, to remain pure, uncontaminated with the disease of sin, the Lord separates them from uncleanness by commanding them to come out from among them. (Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing... 2 Corinthians 6:17; For men shall be lovers of their own selves, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2 Timothy 3:2-5)

We warn those who agree to remain in assemblies where sin is tolerated, not to deceive themselves by perhaps taking the example of the five Churches in Revelation, through which we might assume that lawlessness can dwell together with righteousness.The Lord tells us that Satan hath nothing in Him.

The Lord cannot allow sin in His body, but in His mercy, before cutting off from the vine, He first tries to heal the sick member.

We will only highlight a few sins that if tolerated, will bring death to the assembly: Disregard for authorities by breaking fiscal laws, e.g., undeclared work, non-compliance with traffic laws, love of the things of the world, tolerating worldly

things... Slander/backbiting, a sin so widespread today through many assemblies,is in the eyes of the Lord just as serious as fornication and drunkenness. The Lord requires us to have no fellowship with those who practice it, even if they call themselves brothers. (But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be... a railer, or a drunkard; with such an one no not to eat. 1 Corinthians 5:11)

Another sin, which today is overlooked, but just as serious, for which we must withdraw from those who call themselves brothers, is self-love; brothers who do not live for the benefit of the other members. (This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Questions:

– How much time per day/week do you allocate for yourself, and how much time do you allocate for the spiritual benefit of others? 5%, 10% ... Have I learned to live for the benefit of others?

– Can the Lord be with me if I do not withdraw from those who practice slander/backbiting, from those who promote self-love?

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "The Church – The Body of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.